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STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH

General

for

the year

1956

J.H.C. Eglinton
Medical Officer of Health

L.C. Corlett
Public Health Inspector

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

September, 1957

To:
The Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District Council of Street.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health of the Urban District for the year 1956 and would make the following comments:

Population

The population of Street is maintaining its increase in numbers, the estimated mid-year figure being 6,150, as compared with 6,100 in 1955, 6,080 in 1954 and 5,964 in 1953.

Births: 107

The increase in the number of live births is observed, the comparison in previous years being: 92 in 1955, 101 in 1954, 84 in 1953 and 66 in 1952.

Deaths: 61

A slight decrease in the number of deaths is noted with 64 in 1955 and 59 in 1954.

Infant Mortality

One death only is recorded as compared with 4 last year.

Notifiable Infectious Disease

This was very satisfactory, there being no epidemic during the year.

Diphtheria Immunizations

It is becoming an annual comment to stress the importance of adequate immunization, the numbers being still below what is considered satisfactory for the district.

Mass Radiography

Annual visits of the Mass Radiography Unit are now taking place and out of 2,019 persons surveyed at C. and J. Clark, Ltd., this year, only two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in the Urban District.

Greenbank Swimming Pool

This excellent pool has once again proved what an asset it is to the community. It is well maintained and one particularly notes the increase in the number of attendances of school children for instruction: 9,500 (7,400 in 1955) which fact alone would have given great satisfaction to the late Miss Alice Clark.

Housing

The completion of over 400 post-war houses in an Urban District of this size must indeed be a matter of great satisfaction to the Council following their concern and endeavour to maintain an adequate housing programme.

Food

Progress is being made in the cellophane wrapping of food and one hopes that unwrapped food will soon become a thing of the past. Great stress continues to be placed on personal hygiene, particularly in the strict washing of hands prior to the handling of food stuffs.

Milk

It would now appear that the inclusion of the district in a specified area, which the Council has so consistently worked for, may be realized in the coming year.

Water

The water supply position was maintained in spite of the drought in the summer months.

Slaughter Houses

One notes the larger number of visits necessary for the adequate inspection of meat and I would comment on the efficiency of same.

In conclusion, may I thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their usual courtesy and the Clerk, Surveyor and staff for their loyalty and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J.H.C. EGLINTON

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1956
VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District of Street - 3,069 acres.

Population

The estimated mid-year Home population for 1956 was 6,150.

A Penny Rate produced £244 (approx).

Geology

The strata consists of lower lias, alternate beds of limestone, clays and marls.

Occupations

The principal occupations carried on at Street are shoe making, the manufacture of leather-board, agriculture, tanning, vehicle building and animal feeding stuffs manufacture.

	1956	1955
The number of live births, (one illegitimate) was (Male 52, Female 55).....	107	92
Giving a live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population of.....	17.40	15.08
The number of still births was (legitimate).....	2	0
Giving a still birth rate per 1,000 live births of.....	18.69	
The total number of deaths was..... (Male 28, Female 33)	61	64
Giving a death rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population of.....	9.92	10.49

Infant Mortality

The number of deaths of infants under one year..	1	4
Giving an Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births of.....	9.35	43.47

Causes of Death

Tuberculosis (respiratory).....	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm ..... (Stomach: 4) (Lung : 2) (Breast : 0) (Uterus : 0) (Other : 5)	11	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	6	12
Coronary disease, angina.....	15	13
Other heart disease.....	11	9
Other circulatory disease	2	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
Nephritis	0	4
Congenital Malformations	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	7

	1956	1955
Causes of death cont:		
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0
All other accidents	0	1
Suicide	0	1
Influenza	4	0
Pneumonia	1	0
Bronchitis	1	0
Other (Respiratory System)	2	0
Notification of Infectious Diseases		
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Measles	0	127
Pneumonia	1	2
Food Poisoning	2	0
Notification of Tuberculosis		
Respiratory	4	4
Deaths during year	0	1
Diphtheria Immunisation		
Primary	83	96
Reinforcing	51	44

Of these:

Primary (under one year: 62)

The number of children at 31st December, 1956 who had completed a course of Immunization (whether primary or booster) since 1st January, 1952: 792.

Vaccination

Number of reported Vaccinations:

Primary	34	25
Re-vaccination	7	6

Child Welfare and Nursing Association

The work of the Association is still on the increase, rendering another year of invaluable service to the community. There are three nurses and with the population continuing to increase, this number must obviously be maintained. May I, here, pay tribute to the excellent work of the nurses and I hope the general public appreciates their long hours and devotion to duty.

The Infant Welfare Clinic continues to be held every Wednesday afternoon in a section of the Hindhayes Infant School, when the District Nurses ordinarily attend. I attend as Medical Officer on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month.

The Welfare Committee and Voluntary Helpers have again greatly contributed to its smooth running and are an invaluable asset.

The Nurses' activities include the following:-

Maternity

	1956	1955
Home Confinements	40	39
Doctors own Surgeries attended	102	88
Maternity Nursing Visits,	705	674

Child Welfare

1. Number of children who first attended during the year and who at their first attendance were:-

   Under one year of age.....89

2. Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in:-

   (a) 1956..... 74
   (b) 1955..... 56
   (c) 1954/51..... 85

3. Total attendances during the year made by children (1,203) who at the date of attendance were:

   (a) Under one year of age : 777
   (b) Over one but under two years of age : 212
   (c) Over two but under five years of age : 214

4. Number of individual mothers who attended during the year: 172

5. (a) Total number of sessions held: 50

   (i) With Medical Officer : 20
   (ii) Other sessions : 30

   (b) Number of children examined by Doctor : 62

   (c) Total number of medical consultations : 79

Infant Visiting at Home

	1956	1955
0 - 1 year	1,054	795
1 - 2 years	356	389
2 - 5 years	834	598
	2,244	1,782

It will be seen that the work of the District Nurses includes maternity, midwifery, ante-natal, infant health, welfare centre, school medical inspections &c., as well as the ordinary district nursing duties. The number of visits to old people continuing to be an important part of the work.

Analgesia

The nurses are provided with the necessary equipment and the mothers are given analgesia at their confinements if so desired.

Old People's Welfare

The Street Old People's Welfare Committee has continued to flourish during the year. The Social Club, which meets weekly on Thursdays in the Crispin Hall, has issued 120 Membership cards and the average attendance each week has been 80. Outings arranged during the year included trips to Minehead and Weymouth and members were invited to various entertainments locally.

More than 50 old people, in their homes and in hospital, were visited regularly during the year by the Visiting Service and 71 parcels were distributed at Christmas. The Meals on Wheels service still delivers hot mid-day meals to old people in their homes at a small cost.

The success of the Committee speaks highly of the enthusiasm and energy of the voluntary workers, who continue to give their services freely and willingly.

A Social and Welfare Information Brochure was produced by Street Branch of Toc H during the year and provides a good deal of useful information, including details of services available from the Old People's Committee.

Home Help Service

The Home Help Service continues to be an invaluable service, it being difficult to cover all the demands made on it in the Urban District. The service is primarily called upon during illness in the home, to the elderly people and those living alone, these cases being on the increase and, in addition, assistance is often required in domiciliary, maternity, midwifery and post operational cases.

The local organiser no longer resides in the Urban District, which is sometimes an added difficulty.

Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit again visited Street in May, a large number being surveyed at Messrs. C. and J. Clark's factory, in addition to the survey at the Congregational Hall for the general public in the Urban District.

In connection with the latter, 2,019 were surveyed, 1,287 male and 732 females, two cases (1 male and 1 female) of Tuberculosis being notified.

Greenbank Swimming Pool

This bath, privately owned, situated in Wilfrid Road, Street, was made possible through a legacy from the late Miss Alice Clark, a pioneer in the welfare of women and children. It has once again proved to be a great asset to Street and district, people and school parties coming from considerable distances. The capacity of the bath is 200,000 gallons, the water is heated and the children's section is separate from the adults.

The attendances for the 1956 season amounted to 62,000, of these 55,500 were bathers; it is estimated of these 37,500 were juvenile bathers. Visitors from outside the district are estimated at 5,000 and the school children under instruction 9,500.

The method of purification continued to be break-point chlorination. Chlorine residual tests were taken at least twice daily during the season with satisfactory results, a return of which was made to the County Welfare Department. In addition the sampling for bacteriological examinations also proved satisfactory.

The maintenance of the pool, once again lived up to its reputation of a high standard of cleanliness, not only in the pool itself, but in the surrounds &c. &c. This satisfactory state of affairs was, undoubtedly, assisted by the installation at the commencement of the 1956 season of a new heavy duty chlorination plant ensuring excellent chlorination at all times.

A qualified Bath Superintendent assisted by his wife (a trained nurse) and other helpers are in regular attendance the Urban District Council being represented on the Management Committee.

The normal season is from May 1st to September 30th.

Parks

The facilities available in Merriman Park, Wraxhill and Victoria Field and the Bowling Green at Greenbank still continue to provide recreation for the public and during the fine weather of the summer were much in use.

The woods Batch Recreation Ground was opened for public use during the school summer holidays. During the year the Council have completed plans for the provision of swings, see-saw and roundabouts for small children, seats for adults and a hockey and football pitch on this recreation ground. It is proposed that facilities will be provided and brought into use in the coming year.

These additional attractions will be, I feel sure, a considerable boon to the inhabitants of the district and will fill a particular need for the inhabitants of the northern part of the district.

Housing

The policy of the continuance of the building of Council houses on a reduced scale has continued.

House building on the Brooks Road Site (42 Houses) commenced during the year and the Portland Housing Site is now complete. Plans and estimates have been approved for the execution of site works at The Mead Allotment Site. It is interesting to note that the site lay out in this case provides for the demolition of 5 unfit cottages in The Mead. Site works and the commencement of building on this site should be put in hand during the coming year.

It is interesting to recall that the Council has now completed over 400 post-war houses. A very commendable achievement for a district of this size.

Erection of houses and the execution of site works by Direct Labour continues to be a success.

Food

Further progress I feel has been made in the period in relation to the clean handling of food and it is noted and is to be encouraged that several local traders have introduced the cellophane (or similar) wrapping of foodstuffs. Every effort will be made to encourage the adoption of this policy.

Bakehouses, Restaurant Kitchens &c.

Routine inspections and re-inspections of these premises have been made during the year and stress was again made of the importance of cleanliness and personal hygiene.

Milk and Dairies

Samples taken by the County Council of the milk supplies to schools appear to indicate a satisfactory standard of cleanliness being maintained by the local retailers. Routine visits were made to these retail dairies. The Council pursued its concern that the district was not yet included in a "Specified Area" and made representations to the County Council thereon. It would now appear that this will be achieved during the coming year. I feel that this will be a step forward in relation to the general safeguard of the health of the public in relation to this ever more important food.

Water

The water supply position was maintained during the year although the effect of the drought in the summer months was felt in that the main Well Head supply dried up for some weeks. Recourse had to be made to meeting the whole of the demand from Honeyhurst Well supply. Although no restrictions were imposed in the district the Council was associated with a combined appeal by the Water Authorities to the public to exercise care in the use of water during the drought period.

Whilst Honeyhurst was the sole means of maintaining supply, some difficulty was experienced in pumping the water at a sufficient rate with the existing pump to meet our requirements. As a result of this experience the Council has now taken steps to have one of the pumps in this well reconstructed and increased in capacity to provide against this difficulty in the future.

Slaughter Houses

Slaughtering continued during the year in the two slaughter houses in the district. Over 350 visits were made during the year to these premises and inspection of all animals killed and the quantity of meat condemned is to be found later in this report.

Factories

Routine inspections of factories &c. have been made during the year and the lavatory accommodation has been inspected. Where any defects were found, attention was drawn to same and remedial works were carried out.

Mortuary

The number of cases admitted during the year were:

From within the Urban District : 2 (4 in 1955)
From without the Urban District : 9 (11 in 1955)

Cemetery

The number of burials during the year was 57 (55 in 1955).

Water Supply

The Water Supply of the District was satisfactory in (a) Quality and (b) Quantity. The Main Wellhead Spring ran dry during a period in the summer months and the supply was maintained from Honeyhurst Well. Request for economy made to public but no restriction applied.

Piped Supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:-

RAW WATER				TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Waters liable to have Plumbo-solvent action - Nil.

Action respecting any form of contamination: Where unsatisfactory sample occurred follow up samples taken with satisfactory results.

Water Supplies from Mains:-

	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES			BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES		
	Public	Water Companies	Private	Public	Water Companies	Private
Number of Dwelling Houses	1844	-	-	6 Est figure		
Population	6300	Est		20		

No. of parishes with piped water supply: District provided with main supply.

No. of parishes without a piped supply and which cannot be supplied at a reasonable cost: Not applicable.

No. of cases in which piped supply was substituted for: (i) well water: Nil (ii) private source: Nil (iii) Other: Nil.

Water Supplies from Wells:- Nil.

Extensions or Improvements of Supplies during year:

New High Level pump fixed and brought into use at a cost of £500.

Future Proposals:- Priority Groups, parishes or villages concerned.

Provision of new leg-out to High Level Reservoir at an approximate cost of £2,000

Automatic Control Pumps to High Level fixed at an approximate cost of £500.

Consideration given to and plans prepared for proposed new High Level Reservoir.

Any observations: Nil

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

List of parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems:

Whole District.

Extension of sewers, new works or improvements during year:-

Extension made to serve new Housing Site, Church Road and also to serve proposed new School Site.

Provision of new section of irrigation area at Sewage Works.

Future Proposals:- Priority Group I, villages concerned and any observations: Not applicable.

CAMPING SITE

No. of licences issued for individual moveable dwellings: 2 (permanent)

No. of camping sites for which licences have been issued: only single caravans on separate sites.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:- Figures not known. Very few pail closets in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse is removed

(a) By Direct Labour.

(b) No. and type of vehicles employed: One Karrier Bantam 7 yard Refuse Vehicle

(c) Frequency of collection: once weekly.

(d) No. of parishes covered by routine collections: Whole district.

(e) Is a scheme operated for the collection of trade refuse? Yes, separate full time trade refuse collection system set up during the year which deals with all trade refuse from Messrs. C. and J. Clark's Factory. Full time use of Ferguson Tractor trailers.

House and Trade Refuse is disposed of by 2 controlled tips.

Cesspool Emptying

Cesspool Emptying is not carried out.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

(a) Owned by Local Authority: Nil

(b) Privately owned:

No.	Location	Estimated Average number of Bathers daily during Season
1	Greenbank Swimming Pool	75,000 for season

Water used and method of purification:

Name of Bath: Greenbank Swimming Pool.

Water: Main

Treatment: Recirculation, Filtration and Automatic Chlorination.

Samples Taken: Twice daily tests taken by Supervisor. Returns made to County Council.

Bacteriological Examination: 1 taken, satisfactory.

Observations: A very well conducted and satisfactory swimming pool.

HOUSING

Total number of permanent dwellings in District: 1,850

Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority: 551

Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation (as per Ministry Circular 55/54) : 31.

Action taken during year

(1) No. of houses in Clearance Areas for which:
- (a) Clearance Orders have been made: Nil
- (b) Compulsory Purchase Order made : Nil
- (c) Purchased by agreement : Nil

(2) Number of houses included in Clearance Areas still to be made -

(3) Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched from temporary accommodation under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. -

(4) Number of houses demolished under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 -

(5) Number of houses demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 1

(6) Number of temporary dwellings (huts &c) demolished -

(7) Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 -

(8) Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owners or following the issue of Closing Orders. 4

(9) Number of unfit houses occupied under licence -

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one
	Slum Clearance	Other purposes	Slum Clearance	Other purposes		
Local Authority	-	12	8	12	-	-
Private Enterprise	-	25	-	25	-	-

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1956		Housing Programme for 1957	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes
399	91	8	20

(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied: Nil.

(b) No. of houses found overcrowded: (est) 12.

(c) No. of houses made fit during year: Nil.

Houses Required:-

(i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition: 23
(ii) To abate overcrowding: 12
(iii) For other purposes: Minimum 120.

Total number of applications for Council Houses at the end of the year: 101.

Total number of Council Houses sold during year: Nil.

Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949-54

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:-

	(1) Received		(2) Approved		(3) Rejected	
	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings
31.7,49-31.12.55.	4	8	1	2	1	1
During Year	3	4	2	3	1	1

NOTE - Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers: 1

Average cost per dwelling approved: £617.

Average rent fixed: £64

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority: see below.

Any observations

25% for normal cases.
50% for properties which might otherwise go out.

FOOD

MILK

(a) No. of Registered Distributors: 4
(b) No. of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms): 6
(c) No. of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk: 3
(d) No. of supplementary Licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside our area: 1.

Designated Milk Sampling : All samples taken by County Council

Biological Sampling: Samples taken by County Council.

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for:

(a) Manufacture and retail : 1
(b) Manufacture only : -
(c) Retail only : 19

No. of samples taken: Nil

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BACON FACTORIES

If slaughter-house or abbattoir owned or leased by Local Authority: No.

	NUMBER	
	Licensed	Operating
Private slaughter-houses	2	2
Bacon Factories	Nil	Nil
No. of slaughter-houses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	Nil	Nil

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	228		33	1010	625	
Number inspected	228		33	1010	625	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil		-	-	2	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36		-	14	11	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16%			1¼%	2%	
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	1				1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8				17	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4%				3%	
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	1107	-	-	-	373	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	637	-	-	42	87	-
Total (in lbs) condemned	1744	-	-	42	460	Total
	1744	-	-	42	460	2246
Tinned Foods:						
Tinned Meat		68				68
Other Foods		106				106
	1744	174		42	460	2420

PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED

No. registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Nil

BYELAWS MADE UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Any action taken respecting enforcement and result: Usual inspections made.

KNACKERS YARDS

No. registered: Nil